

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 0943

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, BF
SUBJ: MESSAGE FROM PINDLING ON MILITARY FACILITIES THROUGH
CONGRESSMAN MARKEY

REF: (A) STATE 105569 (B) 77 STATE 174863

1. MESSAGE CONVEYED BY "BUSINESSMAN" (PARAS 2 AND 3 OF
REFTAL A) IS DIFFICULT TO COMPREHEND GIVEN FACT THAT
PINDLING HAD OPPORTUNITY ONLY EIGHT MONTHS AGO TO COMMUNI-
CATE ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF USG.
IN THAT MEETING AND IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH ASST.
SECRETARY TODMAN IN DECEMBER BOTH OFFICIALS SHOWED CONSID-
ERABLE ATTENTION TO SUBJECT OF FACILITIES IN BAHAMAS.
IN ADDITION, PINDLING MADE NO REFERENCE WHATSOEVER
EITHER DIRECT OR INDIRECT IN EITHER OF THESE MEETINGS
NOR HAS HE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH AMB. SCHWARTZ ALLUDED
TO ANY "MENACE TO US INTERESTS" STEMMING FROM ALLEGED
YOUNGER AND MORE RADICAL BAHAMIANS WHOM HE WOULD "HAVE
TO SATISFY."

2. WE IN FACT FIND IT DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY THIS "MENACE."
CERTAINLY IT IS NOT THE MINISCULE MARXIST VANGUARD
SOCIALIST PARTY, WHICH HAS FEW MEMBERS AND NO INFLU-
ENCE WHATSOEVER OVER CABINET DECISIONS. THE ONLY
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OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCE WOULD BE A GROUP OF NEWLY
ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INCLUDING HUBERT
INGRAHAM, PERRY CHRISTIE, AND VALENTINE GRIMES WHO
(WHILE OCCASIONALLY BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY
EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT WITH "THINGS AS USUAL" IN
THE PLP AND THE GOVERNMENT'S INACTION IN DEALING
WITH UNEMPLOYMENT) ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE RADICALS,

ANTI-AMERICANS, PRO-JAMAICANS OR TO HAVE ANY IDEOLOGY OTHER THAN PRAGMATISM. (INGRAHAM IN A RECENT SPEECH DECLARED IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THE IMPORTANCE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN COMBATTING UNEMPLOYMENT AND IN FAR MORE EXPLICIT LANGUAGE THAN WE HAVE HEARD FROM DEPUTY PM HANNA OR FOR THAT MATTER THE PM HIM-

SELF.) THE HYPOTHETICAL DEFECTION OF THIS ENTIRE GROUP FROM THE PARTY WHICH WE CONSIDER TO BE TOTALLY UNLIKELY IN THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS WOULD QUITE LIKELY SPELL THEIR POLITICAL SUICIDE AND WOULD NOT CANCEL PINDLING'S MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE.

3. WE CANNOT AGREE WITH THE BUSINESSMAN'S "FEELING" THAT A MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD RESOLVING FACILITIES ISSUE. RATHER WE FEEL THAT AT THIS STAGE IT WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE ITS RESOLUTION. AS WE SEE IT MEETING HELD ON TECHNICAL ISSUES IN MARCH AND THAT WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN JUNE ARE ESSENTIAL STEPS IN PAVING WAY FOR SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS FOCUSING ON THE QUID BETWEEN ADDERLEY AND US NEGOTIATOR WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY FOLLOW AND WHICH HAS A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS GIVEN OUR RECENT ACTION VIS A VIS THE BLAKE PLATEAU. TO DEVIATE FROM THIS STEP BY STEP AND AGREED APPROACH WOULD BE TO OUR DETRIMENT.
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4. WE DO NOT FEEL THAT PINDLING WISHES AT THIS LATE DATE TO SHORTCUT NEGOTIATING PACE WHICH HE HAS BEEN CONTENT TO FOLLOW FOR LAST FIVE YEARS NOR DO WE FIND IT CREDIBLE THAT HE WOULD BE SEEKING ADDITIONAL HIGH LEVEL "US ATTENTION" TO BAHAMAS PROBLEMS WHEN HE IS ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO SEE MOVEMENT ON THOSE SUBJECTS HE DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON LAST SEPTEMBER.

5. FINALLY, DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL FROM REF B INTERCESSION OF MR. LEONARD SUGARMAN OF STATLER TISSUE CO. IN ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE MEETING BETWEEN PM PINDLING AND VICE PRESIDENT LAST SUMMER. WE SUSPECT, ALTHOUGH WITHOUT HARD EVIDENCE, THAT SUGARMAN AND "UNNAMED US BUSINESSMAN" MAY BE ONE AND THE SAME. WHILE THE ALLEGED USE LAST JULY BY PINDLING OF SUCH A CHANNEL MAY HAVE BEEN CREDITABLE, WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SWALLOW IT AT THIS JUNCTURE. (THIS IS ESPECIALLY SO GIVEN EXCELLENT AND OPEN RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN P.M. AND AMBASSADOR AND OUR BELIEF THAT FORMER WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CONVEY TO AMBASSADOR ANY REQUEST HE MIGHT WISH TO MAKE.)

DOES DEPARTMENT HAVE DATES OF PINDLING/BUSINESSMAN
MEETING?
SCHWARTZ

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NNN

Message Attributes

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